

USSN 10/675,138

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Amdt. dated May 13, 2005

Reply to Office action of December 1, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 17 wherein the material has a Si:Sb ratio of less than 5.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 17 wherein the one or more elements is present in the material at a concentration in the range from about 0.5 to about 30.0 weight %.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the one or more elements is present in the material at a concentration in the range from about 0.5 to about 30.0 weight %.
- 5-6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 17 in which the aqueous solution has a pH <7.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 17 in which the metal ions are radioactive metal ions.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 in which the radioactive metal ions comprise Sr, Cs, Co, Pu or Am ions.
- 11-16. (Cancelled)

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17. (Currently Amended) A method of extracting metal ions from an aqueous solution comprising contacting the aqueous solution with a material comprising antimony silicate doped with one or more elements selected from the group consisting of tungsten, niobium and tantalum which material has been obtained by reacting together in a liquid medium a ~~silicene~~ silicon -containing compound, an ~~organic~~ antimony containing compound and a compound containing one or more of the elements in the presence of an acid.
18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 17 wherein the acid is a polymerization catalyst.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the material is a crystalline antimony silicate material.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 in which the aqueous solution is acidic and contains at least one background ions Na, K, Mg or Ca ions at a higher concentration than the concentration of the radioactive metal ions.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 in which the aqueous solution is acidic and contains at least one background ion Na, K, Mg, or Ca ions, and in which the radioactive metal ions are selectively removed from the aqueous solution, the background ions being left behind in the aqueous solution.